

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. NG-0028/PI-97
on its own motion, seeking to)
investigate and adopt policies)
for administration of Consumer) ORDER OPENING DOCKET AND
Choice Programs offered by) REQUESTING WRITTEN COMMENTS
Jurisdictional Utilities for)
natural gas service in Nebraska.)
) Entered: June 14, 2005

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) hereby opens the above-captioned docket, on its own motion, to investigate and adopt policies for administration of Consumer Choice Programs offered by Jurisdictional Utilities for natural gas service in Nebraska.

A consumer choice program is a program offered by a jurisdictional utility that allows ratepayers, other than high-volume ratepayers, to purchase their gas supplies from a person other than the local gas utility.

Issues to be explored by the Commission include but are not limited to the following:

1. Adoption of a standard code of conduct for jurisdictional utilities seeking to offer consumer choice programs, using Kinder Morgan, Inc.'s Code of Conduct in its Nebraska Gas Tariff, General Terms and Conditions, Item No. 38, for purposes of discussion;
2. Production of educational information by the Commission for consumers regarding consumer choice programs, such as pamphlets and website materials, using examples collected by Commission staff from other states for purposes of discussion, available for interested parties to review via Internet links on the Commission's website at www.psc.state.ne.us;
3. Annual reporting requirements for jurisdictional utilities that offer consumer choice programs and competitive natural gas providers that participate in consumer choice programs, including, but not limited to, customer take rates for each supplier, the default rate, information on range of rates and offerings available from each supplier during a consumer choice program selection period;

4. Whether and how to calculate historic cost comparisons among the suppliers for the benefit of consumers and the Commission; and
5. Auditing of consumer choice programs, including, but not limited to, auditing costs of administration of a consumer choice program by a jurisdictional utility.

This docket is not intended to explore whether the Commission ought to require all jurisdictional utilities to offer customer choice programs. If that issue is considered, it should be evaluated in a separate proceeding.

The Commission requests written comment from all interested parties on issues related to consumer choice programs for natural gas service in Nebraska **on or before August 15, 2005, at 5:00 p.m.** All parties filing comments should file one original, five paper copies and one electronic copy in MS Word format.

A public workshop is hereby scheduled for **September 13, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.** CST in the Commission Library, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska to review the comments submitted and discuss further issues related to consumer choice programs.

A public hearing will be scheduled for a date to be determined to allow all interested parties an opportunity to address the issues outlined herein.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned docket be, and it is hereby, opened to investigate and adopt policies for administration of Consumer Choice Programs offered by Jurisdictional Utilities.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that interested parties submit written comments on the issues outlined herein on or before **5:00 p.m. on August 15, 2005.** All parties submitting comments should provide one original and five paper copies and one electronic copy in a MS Word format on a disk/CD or sent via email to angela.melton@psc.ne.gov and rose.price@psc.ne.gov.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that a public workshop is scheduled for **September 13, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.** CST in the Commission Library, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska to review the comments submitted and discuss further issues related to consumer choice programs.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 14th day of
June, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director